



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARCH 25, 2022

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Testimony Opposing

House Bill No. 5435, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDER SERVICES AND THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID LITIGATION SETTLEMENT
FUNDS

and

House Bill No. 5436, AN ACT CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT AND APPROVAL
FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID LITIGATION SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Senator Osten, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony on House Bill 5435, An Act Establishing a Task Force on Substance Use Disorder Services and the Expenditure of Opioid Litigation Settlement Funds, and House Bill 5436, An Act Concerning Legislative Oversight and Approval for the Expenditure of Opioid Litigation Settlement Funds.

While we support the establishment of a process for oversight of funding received as a result of negotiated settlements with pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors related to the opioid epidemic, we respectfully request that the committee consider the Governor's proposed bill on this topic, House Bill 5044, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Regarding the Use of Opioid Litigation Proceeds. The Governor's bill is based on model legislation and was drafted in close consultation with the Attorney General's Office and has been carefully crafted to adhere to the settlement requirements. Such requirements include municipal representation. Specifically, the Johnson & Johnson settlement – and potentially other settlements – require equal representation and voting power for municipal representatives. House Bill 5435, however, does not include any municipal representation. In addition, we believe the timelines in House Bill 5436 would be difficult to adhere to as they require a plan to be submitted by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to the legislative committees of cognizance ten days after the receipt of any settlement funds. The negotiated settlement agreements require that an Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee be established that includes a wide range of stakeholders and a process for public input which could not be completed within the timelines outlined in the bill.

Thank you again for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge support of House Bill 5044.